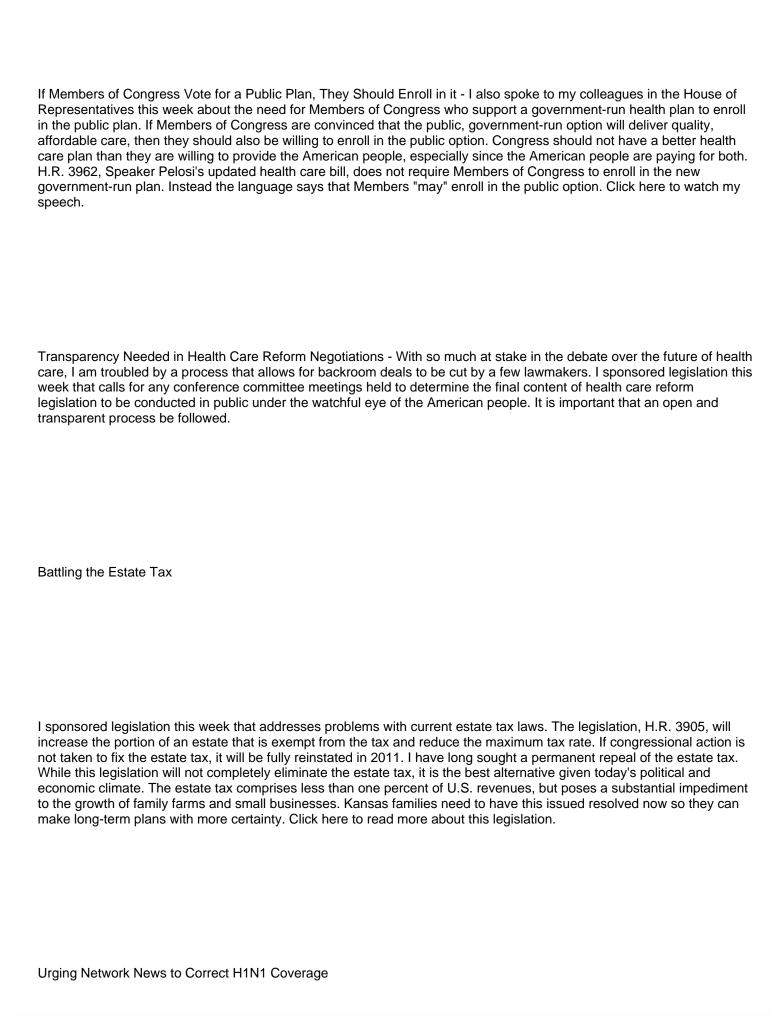
11/02/2009 This Week in Congress This Week in Congress November 2, 2009 Dear Friend, Welcome to "This Week in Congress." Health Care Reform Release of Speaker Pelosi's Updated Health Care Bill - On Thursday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi released H.R. 3962, an updated version of the House Democrats' health care reform legislation. This nearly 2,000 page bill expands on different versions of H.R. 3200, the original 1,017 page health care bill reported in July by the House Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor committees.

H.R. 3962 includes several changes from the measure introduced this summer, but the framework of the bill is the same. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that H.R. 3962 would cost \$1.055 trillion. Key provisions of the bill include:

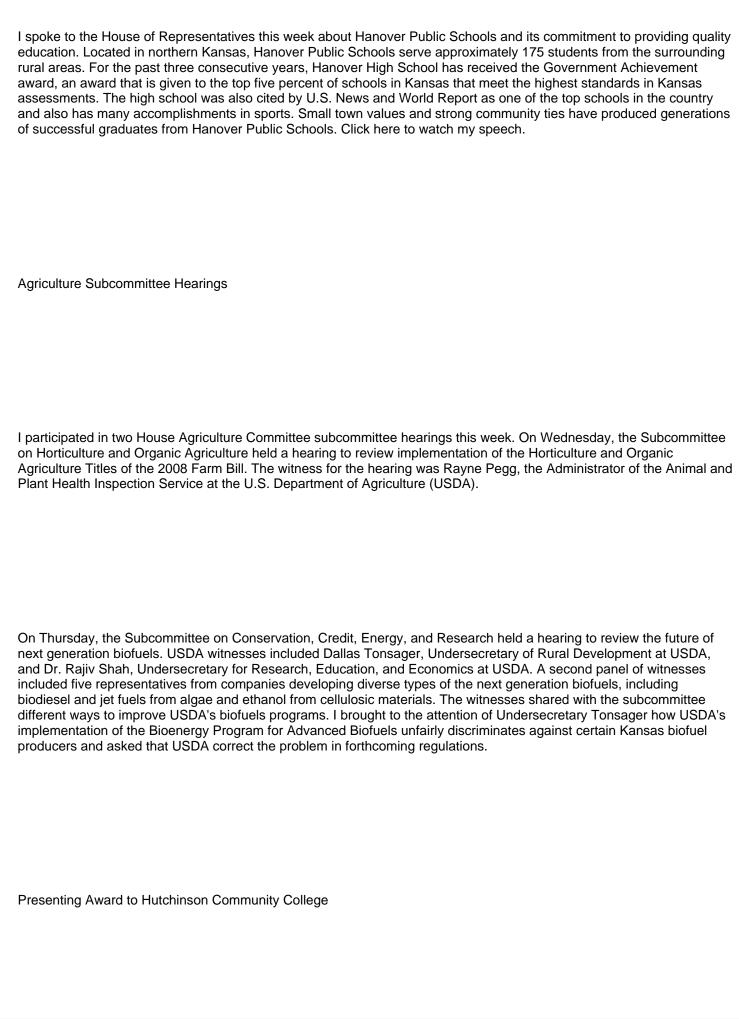
- Creation of a new government-run health care program and health insurance purchasing exchange.
- Federal officials would negotiate payment rates with doctors and hospitals that accept the government-run plan.
- This bill would create 111 new boards, bureaucracies, commissions and programs.
- New insurance industry regulations that would prohibit insurers from rejecting customers based on pre-existing conditions and prohibit annual or lifetime benefit caps.
- The bill would cut Medicare payments to doctors and other health care providers by more than \$400 billion.
- Employers with annual payrolls greater than \$500,000 would be required to either provide health insurance for their employees or contribute 8 percent of their payroll to a federal fund to help subsidize employees who purchase coverage through the exchange.
- Most Individuals would be required to purchase health insurance or pay a penalty fee.
- The bill would expand Medicaid to cover everyone whose income is below 150 percent of the poverty line (about \$33,000 per year for a family of four). People who earn between 150 percent and 400 percent of the federal poverty level would be eligible for subsidies on a sliding scale to purchase insurance through the exchange.
- The bill would help pay for itself by imposing a 5.4 percent tax on individuals and businesses earning more than \$500,000 per year.

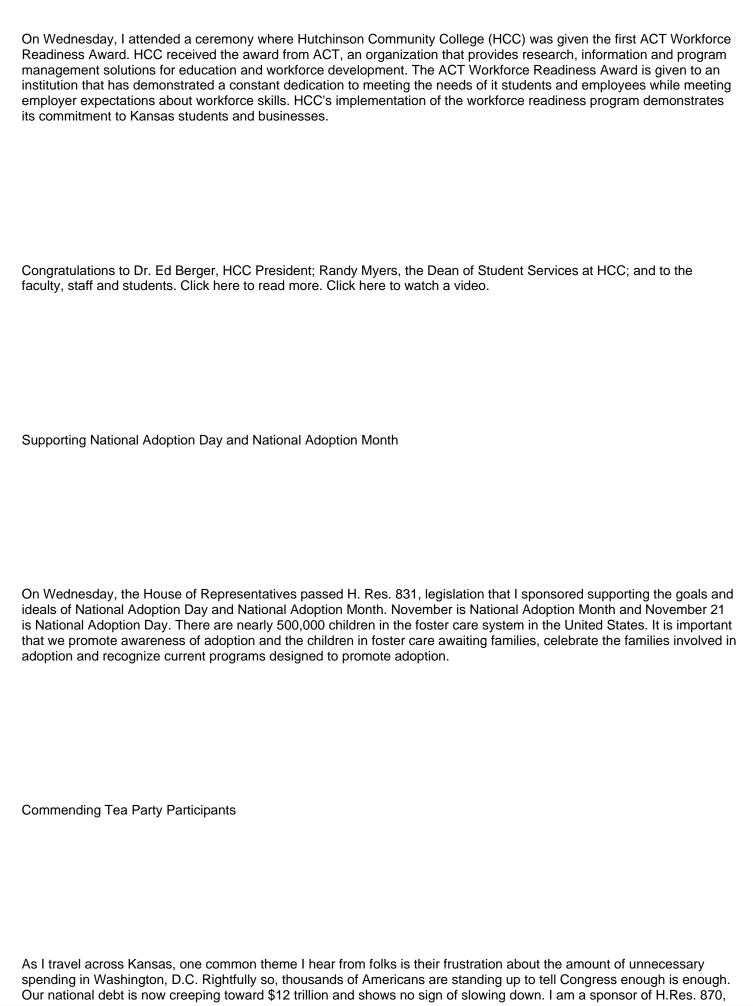
While I strongly disagree with the legislation proposed by Speaker Pelosi, I remain committed to seeking common-sense reforms that reduce health care costs, preserve care quality, and enhance access. Click here to read my statement on the release of H.R. 3962. Click here to review the text of H.R. 3962.

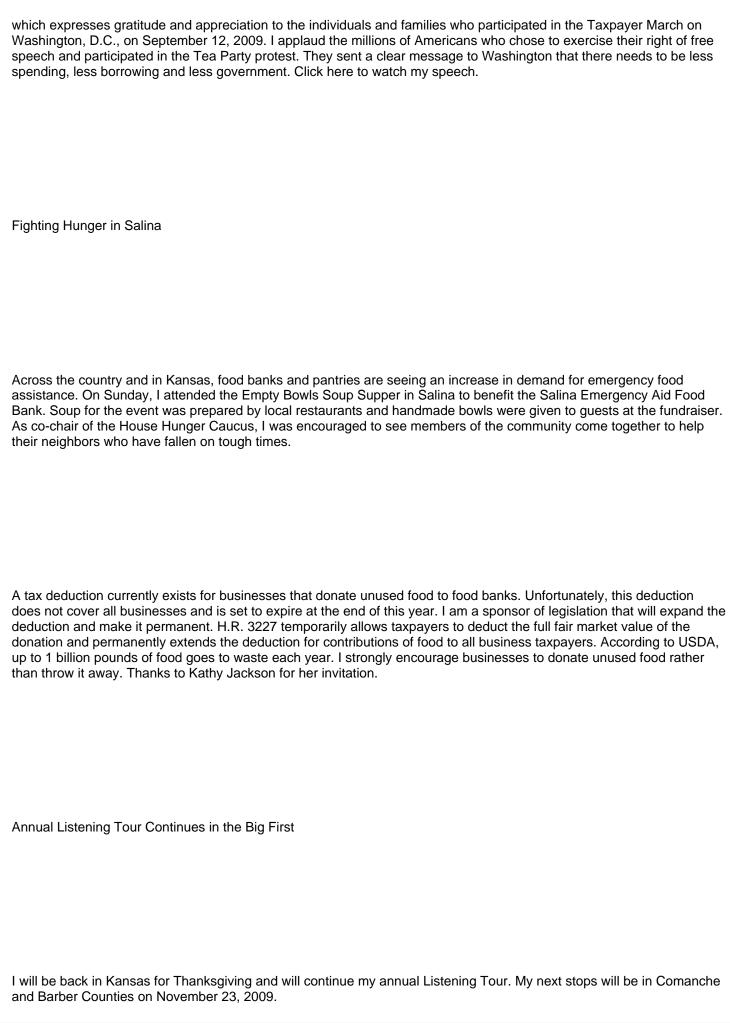
Fighting for Health Care Issues Important to Kansans - On Monday, I spoke to the House of Representatives to express my concerns with the health care debate and to voice my support for common-sense ideas that would make quality health coverage more affordable and more accessible for American families. I ran for Congress with a purpose of wanting to preserve the way we live our lives in Kansas. Access to quality, affordable health care is one of those things that determine whether our towns survive and have a future. Reform legislation is being crafted by only a few Democratic lawmakers and White House staff behind closed doors. This process concerns me because, in this closed environment, the future of health care for Kansans is being decided. This small group needs to understand the problems that cutting Medicare reimbursement rates will pose for Kansas hospitals, doctors, nurses and other health care providers. Kansans want reforms that enhance our current system and reduce health care costs. We lower costs and maintain quality through reforms that eliminate the unnecessary over-spending in our current system, not by shifting the costs of health care to taxpayers and mortgaging our children's future with exploding budget deficits. Click here to watch my speech.



This week, I contacted all major news broadcasting companies after observing network news anchors and reporters incorrectly referencing the H1N1 virus as "swine flu." I asked broadcasters to stop using the term "swine flu" and refer to this disease by its correct name, H1N1. While the Obama Administration, the World Health Organization, and the World Organization for Animal Health have all asked that the virus be referred to as H1N1 and not "swine flu," many media outlets continue to use the term "swine flu." The incorrect use of the term "swine flu" confuses consumers and leads them to believe that pork is unsafe to eat. During a recent House Agriculture Committee hearing, I learned that H1N1 has led to nearly \$1.317 billion in lost revenue for the U.S. pork industry over the last six months.
Click here to read my letter to broadcasting companies. Click here to read more about this topic.
ACORN Funding Should Not be Restored
I spoke to the House of Representatives this week to remind Members of Congress to be aware of the risk of allowing federal funding to be restored to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). Last month, funding for ACORN was stripped from a spending bill. American taxpayers should not have to subsidize ACORN's activities and its funding should not be reinstated. Click here to watch my speech.
Recognizing Hanover Public Schools







Monday, November 23 Comanche County Tour Stop, Wilmore Time: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM Location: Wilmore Community Building Address: Corner of Railroad and Taft Barber County Tour Stop, Medicine Lodge Time: 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM Location: The People's Bank Address: 117 S. Main

During each town hall, I am able to listen to folks' concerns and take that information back with me to Washington, D.C. Residents are invited to attend the town halls to share their thoughts with me on current issues. Click here to view the

listening tour schedule and to see where I have already stopped this year.
Speaking to High School Students
On Friday morning, I spoke to a class of 26 seniors at Perry-Lecompton High School in Perry about my responsibilities as a Member of Congress and the importance of civic participation. Our country and communities are stronger when citizens are engaged in the political process. The students and I also discussed current topics, including health care reform. Thank you to teacher Mark Armstrong for allowing me to visit his class and to Dennis Hupe, a community leader, for his invitation.
Leadership Kansas
I attended a Leadership Kansas luncheon in Topeka on Friday, where Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh spoke to the 2009 class. Each year, Leadership Kansas chooses 40 individuals from across the state to participate in a six month leadership program sponsored by the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. I enjoyed visiting with these leaders about issues important to them and their communities. Congratulations to the members of the class who later that evening graduated from the program.
Attending McCurry Brothers Black Angus Sale

On Saturday, I attended the McCurry Brothers 81st Anniversary Black Angus Sale, Tradition with a Vision II, near Mt. Hope. The McCurry family's history of farming and raising Angus cattle began in 1928 when Walter McCurry purchased two Angus heifers from his brother-in-law. This year's sale sold approximately 85 head of registered Angus cattle. Attending the anniversary sale gave me a chance to visit with cattlemen from across Kansas about issues important to livestock producers.
It was encouraging to see that family values and hard work have allowed the McCurry family to maintain their way of life through generations. Thanks to Jesse McCurry for inviting me to attend.
Attending a Reception at Gorham State Bank in Honor of Wayne Nelson
On Friday, I attended a reception honoring Wayne Nelson on the occasion of his retirement from Gorham State Bank. Wayne worked for 27 years at Gorham State Bank and nearly 50 years in the industry. It was a good have the opportunity to visit with so many of Wayne's long time customers. I congratulate him for his years of dedication to the Gorham community and wish him the best in his retirement.
In the Office
Jim French of Partridge was in with OxFam to share his support for the Global Food Security Act of 2009. Jane Kelly of Topeka was in with the Kansas Home Care Association to voice her support for the inclusion of home health services in health care reform. President Ed Berger and Randy Myers of Hutchinson were in with Hutchinson Community College to discuss education and workforce training initiatives.

Meg Wilson, principal of Rawlins County High School in Atwood, was in to talk about the Partnership in Character Education Program and fostering shared leadership among Kansas high school students. She presented me with a copy of Our Boys: A Perfect Season on the Plains with the Smith Center Redmen. Dr. Saeid Sajadi of Overland Park was in to tell me about the humanitarian situation at Camp Ashraf in Iraq. Arvil Bass of Salina was in to visit.
Several Kansans visited my Washington, D.C., office this week to receive a tour of the United States Capitol, including Dallas and Linda Fowler of Hutchinson, Jane Wideman of Burlington, Jacob and Jacqueline Wood of Salina and Jill Hulse of Lindsborg.
Very truly yours,
Jerry